

WASHINGTON MASSAGE NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION MASSEURS & MASSEUSES

JANUARY ISSUE 1959

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This is a very belated January issue. This month's news was held up so that we might report to you on some new developments affecting our practice of massage in this state.

Some time ago, your reporter as well as others began hearing reports of renewed activities on the part of the inspectors of the department of licenses. After a preliminary examination a meeting was called in Seattle and the state inspector was invited in as a guest and asked to explain.

The information we received was to the effect that there have been complaints about some masseurs throughout the state using machines and equipment that they were not either properly trained or licensed to use. Others are using the title of Doctor and other titles which are misleading to the public and to which they are not by reason of training or license legally using rightfully.

The result is that the department is planning to make a number of arrests - probably four. They will be trials and with the court decisions resulting, the inspectors will know exactly what is legal practice and what is not.

Here is where we, the masseurs and masseuses are in jeopardy. Everything we do, even massage with our hands, is at present licensed by some other group. Should the courts rule that we can do none of these things - even massage without first qualifying for a Naturopathic license or that of a Registered Physical Therapist - it would put us all out of business. At least it would mean that we would have to employ a lawyer and engage in costly court tests.

Therefore, at a meeting of the board of directors held at Quincy Sunday, the eleventh, it was decided to try to get a licensing act passed in this session of the Legislature which would at least give us the right to do regular massage. No attempt will be made to include more than heat lamps, steam baths, and vibrators. The lack of funds and the great amount of opposition to be overcome would be too much for us at this time.

This is the first time an actual court action has threatened to cause us real difficulty. The board found the

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treasury almost empty, so it decided to appropriate all available funds and ask for pledges from the membership. The following members each pledged twenty-five dollars apiece, the money to be returned to them from future funds in our treasury. More of the same kind of donations are urgently needed. Each of the following pledged twenty-five dollars:

Art Mann
Art Dunbar
Pete Eitrem
Russell Scaper
Mrs. Ruth Williams
Leston Short

We are rather fortunate in several respects. We have a very favorable legislature meeting this time and we have more friends who are powerful to support us; and we were fortunate to find a man who would look after our interests at the legislature for a very modest amount.

The members are requested to keep us informed. If you are one who is arrested, or you have information regarding someone else who has been, please send as much of the facts as you can to us at the address of this paper:

Regina Williams Health Salon
5238 - University Way
Seattle 5, Washington

Copies of the bill and other details will be furnished in the next issue of this paper.

The date of the next convention or state meeting was set for the week end of June 13 at Moses Lake. More details will be given as we receive more information.

Arthur Dunbar